

Mail address: Genetics Bldg.

December 8, 1957

Dr. S. C. Rittenberg
Bacteriology Department
University of Southern California
Los Angeles 7

Dear Rittenberg:

For some immunological studies now in progress, it would be some help to have available an easily grown, actively motile, conspicuous spirillum. Except that the local ponds are frozen up around here this season, I'd try to make my own collections. It occurred to me that you might be the person to have handy a collection of *Spirillum* spp. and to know enough about them to recommend a few of the most likely. *S. volutans* might fill the bill, but if you have some others too I'd like to try them out. I'd as soon not bother with *S. minus*.

How about *S. lunata*? Is it easily grown? In any case, quite aside from my serious purpose above, it might be fun to look at the fusions you described. Are you doing anything with it on the genetic side, viz. to see if there is any evidence of fusion of different cells? My own hunch, just from the pictures in JGM (whereof a reprint would be appreciated by the way) was that you may have incipient protoplast liberation in the cysts, owing to some unbalance of growth of cell wall and protoplast, but this mechanistic angle of course tells nothing of the biological significance of the transformation.

It's been some time since we've met — best regards &

Sincerely yours



Joshua Lederberg
Professor & Chairman
Medical Genetics